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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,255	09/15/2003	William F. Courtney	12489US02	2407

23446 7590 11/02/2005

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EXAMINER
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VUONG, QUOCHIE B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2685

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,255

Applicant(s)

COURTNEY ET AL.

Examiner

Quochien B. Vuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This action in response to Applicant's response filed on 08/05/2005. Claims 38-49 are now pending in the present application.

#### ***Terminal Disclaimer***

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 08/05/2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 6,665,518 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 38, 41, 44, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dent (US 5,539,730).

Regarding claims 38, 41, 44, and 47 Dent (figures 5 and 9) discloses a communication system and method including: a satellite (410), and a terminal (420) communicating with the satellite using an uplink having an assigned uplink bandwidth and a downlink having an assigned downlink bandwidth, wherein the assigned uplink

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bandwidth differs from the assigned downlink bandwidth (column 5, line 36 – column 6, line 20; and column 11, line 49 –column 12, line 9).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dent in view of Gilbert et al. (US 6,016,311).

Regarding claims 39, 42, 45, and 48, Dent discloses the method and system of claims 38, 41, 44, and 47, respectively. Dent does not specifically disclose at least one of the assigned uplink bandwidth and the assigned downlink bandwidth occurs dynamically. However, Gilbert et al. disclose assignment of bandwidth wherein at least one of the assigned uplink bandwidth and the assigned downlink bandwidth occurs dynamically (column 4, line 33 – column 5, line 57; and column 8, lines 15-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to adapt the teaching of Gilbert et al. for dynamically assigned the downlink and uplink bandwidths to the method and system of Dent in order to allocate the bandwidth effectively and provide services to the customer when needed.

Regarding claims 40, 43, 46, and 49, Dent and Gilbert et al. disclose the method and system of claims 39, 42, 45, and 48, respectively; in addition, Gilbert et al. further

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disclose the assignment of at least one of the assigned uplink bandwidth and the assigned downlink bandwidth is based on a bandwidth demand of at least one of the uplink and the downlink (column 4, line 33 – column 5, line 57; and column 8, lines 15-37).

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38-49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quochien B. Vuong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7902. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-18:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban can be reached on (571) 272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**QUOCHIE B. VUONG**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Quochien B. Vuong  
Oct. 28, 2005.